

**Executive Department**  
State of California

PROCLAMATION

**FILED**  
In the office of the Secretary of State  
of the State of California

JAN 21 1980

MARCH FONG EU, Secretary of State

By *[Signature]*  
Deputy

WHEREAS, the President's Commission on Foreign Languages has noted an alarming decline of foreign language knowledge among students which bilingual education promises to reverse by promoting opportunities to use and further develop skills in English and other languages, and

WHEREAS, there are approximately 290,000 students of limited English speaking ability in California Public Schools who can benefit from bilingual education programs, and

WHEREAS, the California Commission for Teacher Preparation and Licensing has certified over 6,000 bilingual teachers since the California Bilingual Education Act took effect in 1976, and additional teacher training programs have been established at the State and Federal levels to train approximately 4,000 teachers currently on bilingual waivers, and

WHEREAS, the knowledge and use of multiple languages represent a rich human mode of communication in education, commerce and international affairs necessary to preserve and promote the general welfare, and

WHEREAS, bilingual education brings people together by promoting mutual understanding and communication among all people, and

WHEREAS, the California Association for Bilingual Education is conducting its fifth annual Bilingual Bicultural Conference on February 13-16, 1980; therefore

I HEREBY DECLARE THAT bilingual education is an essential program of instruction in California Public Schools necessary to develop English language proficiency and promote primary language development and use, and multicultural education, and that all individuals be encouraged to acquire and use the languages of others for more effective communication among diverse social groups, and that educational institutions strive to develop effective bilingual education and other language programs to promote effective oral, reading and writing skills so essential for the academic and career advancement of all students, and that all individuals, educational institutions and other organizations promote, through bilingual education, the vast linguistic human resources of our pluralistic and democratic society as part of our national heritage, and further:

**Executive Department**  
State of California

I DO HEREBY DECLARE THAT the week of February 11-17, 1980,  
is "Bilingual Education Awareness Week" to be observed by  
educational and all other State institutions in California.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF I have hereunto  
set my hand and caused the  
Great Seal of the State of  
California to be affixed this  
18th day of January 1980.

  
*Edmund G. Brown, Jr.*  
Governor of California

ATTEST:

*March Fong Eu*  
Secretary of State

by *Marjorie R. Kerschberger*  
Deputy Secretary of State